

**Introduced by Senator Emmerson**

February 8, 2013

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An act to amend Section 16004 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 206, as introduced, Emmerson. Foster care.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to develop recommendations for the Legislature, in consultation with the Chief Probation Officers' Association and the County Welfare Directors Association, regarding, among other things procedures for placing siblings together when one or more siblings are in the juvenile dependency system and one or more siblings are in the juvenile delinquency systems, when those placements are appropriate.

This bill would make nonsubstantive, technical changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 16004 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 16004. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that there is an
- 4 urgent need to develop placement resources to permit sibling
- 5 groups to remain together in out-of-home care when removed from
- 6 the custody of their parents due to child abuse or neglect. Multiple
- 7 barriers exist, including local ordinances and community care
- 8 licensing standards, that limit or prevent the county placement

1 agency from fulfilling its obligation pursuant to subdivision (b) of  
2 Section 16002 to place siblings together.

3 Therefore, the Legislature declares its intent to develop specific  
4 placement resources to accommodate sibling groups.

5 (b) The State Department of Social Services shall, in  
6 consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association, the  
7 Judicial Council, organizations representing foster youth, and other  
8 similar, interested organizations, make recommendations to  
9 increase the available sibling placement resources. The possible  
10 policy changes to be addressed shall include, but shall not be  
11 limited to, the following:

12 (1) The creation of a special licensing category for sibling care,  
13 including sibling group foster homes.

14 (2) Development of children's villages with separate cottages  
15 to provide a home for each sibling group.

16 (3) Funding for targeted recruitment of foster parents for large  
17 sibling groups.

18 (4) Establishment of a higher foster care payment rate for  
19 caretakers who accept sibling groups.

20 (5) Funding for one-time capital improvement costs to remodel  
21 homes to accommodate placement of siblings and provide for other  
22 ~~up-front~~ *upfront* costs, ~~such as including, but not limited to,~~ vans,  
23 car seats, and other items.

24 (6) Establishment of guidelines for placing siblings, who cannot  
25 be placed in the same home, within geographic proximity to each  
26 other and exploration of the possibility of permitting these siblings  
27 to have the option of enrolling in the same school district even  
28 when the siblings reside in different school districts.

29 (c) The department shall develop recommendations for the  
30 Legislature, in consultation with the Chief Probation Officers  
31 Association and the County Welfare Directors Association,  
32 regarding procedures for doing both of the following:

33 (1) Placing siblings together when one or more siblings are in  
34 the juvenile dependency system and one or more siblings are in  
35 the juvenile delinquency systems, ~~when such~~ *those* placements are  
36 appropriate.

37 (2) Maintaining contact and sharing information between  
38 siblings who are placed separately in out-of-home care under the  
39 juvenile dependency and the juvenile delinquency systems.

- 1 (d) The department shall submit the recommendations described
- 2 in subdivisions (b) and (c) to the Legislature by November 1, 2001.

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